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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. (a) There is established a two-year irrigation  
2 water conservation best management practices pilot program,  
3 under which the department of accounting and general services,  
4 department of transportation, and department of land and natural  
5 resources shall implement irrigation water conservation best  
6 management practices, as established by the Landscape Industry  
7 Council of Hawaii, to improve the efficiency of all existing and  
8 new landscape irrigation installations through low cost,  
9 practical measures. Irrigation water conservation best  
10 management practices shall include:

- 11           (1) Best management practices for maintenance; and  
12           (2) Best management practices for new installations or  
13           major renovations.

14           (b) As used in this section:

15           "Best management practices for maintenance" includes the  
16 use of:

- 17           (1) Seasonal timing adjustments to irrigation controller  
18           systems;



1           (2) Aeration of lawns when compaction increases, and short  
2           run-time cycle irrigation in areas where runoff and  
3           ponding occur;

4           (3) Irrigation controllers programmed for long run times  
5           to water as deeply, evenly, and infrequently as  
6           possible to encourage deep rooting and increased  
7           drought resistance;

8           (4) Mulch, organic matter in soils, and drought-tolerant  
9           plants or plants that are naturally occurring at the  
10          site and surroundings;

11          (5) The practice of allowing grass to grow taller to  
12          conserve water; and

13          (6) Schedule systems to run water at night;

14 provided that best management practices for maintenance may also  
15 include periodic practical water audits to review the system  
16 components and verify that the components meet the original  
17 design criteria for the efficient operation and uniform  
18 distribution of water.

19           "Best management practices for new installations or major  
20 renovations" includes the use of:

21           (1) New installations that require a coverage test prior  
22           to acceptance; and irrigation system designs, plans,



- 1 and specifications that remain on site and contain  
2 water conservation language;
- 3 (2) Systems designed with sprinklers spaced head-to-head  
4 coverage or better, and with a precipitation rate not  
5 exceeding the soil infiltration rate;
- 6 (3) Systems designed to irrigate similar site, slope, sun  
7 exposure, soil conditions, and plant materials with  
8 similar water use on the same circuit;
- 9 (4) Climate-based automatic irrigation controllers  
10 utilizing either evapotranspiration and weather  
11 sensors, or soil moisture sensors;
- 12 (5) Flow sensors with a malfunction valve shutoff system  
13 capability in an irrigation controller and water  
14 submeters that measure outdoor water usage on larger  
15 sites;
- 16 (6) Water conserving irrigation components and check  
17 valves and drip irrigation for individual specimen  
18 plants;
- 19 (7) Storm water design methods, including infiltration  
20 beds, swales, and basins that allow water to collect  
21 and soak into the ground on site, utilizing low impact  
22 development principles;



- 1 (8) Nonpotable water sources when available; and
- 2 (9) A qualified irrigation designer, such as an Irrigation
- 3 Association-certified irrigation designer, Irrigation
- 4 Association-certified irrigation contractor, and a
- 5 maintenance contractor with water conservation
- 6 expertise.

7 SECTION 2. The department of accounting and general  
8 services, department of transportation, and department of land  
9 and natural resources shall each submit a report regarding the  
10 results of the two-year irrigation water conservation best  
11 management practices pilot program, including any proposed  
12 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
13 to the convening of the regular session of 2016.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

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**Report Title:**

Water Conservation; Best Management Practices; Public Agencies

**Description:**

Establishes a two-year pilot program requiring DAGS, DOT, and DLNR to implement irrigation water conservation best management practices, as established by the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii. Requires DAGS, DOT, and DLNR to submit a report regarding the results of the pilot program. (SD1)

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